

Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with the change of argument in the debate of gun control issue in Canada during Stephen Harper's governance. Gun control approach in Canada went through significant changes throughout the history. Until 1990s gun laws were mostly responsive to the events of the 20th century. The change of gun control approach occurred during Harper's conservative governance. Since then, the safety issue of the gun control approach has started to be less prominent at the expense of the financial issue. That is due to strict gun laws which brought considerable financial expenses. The method of content analysis which was used in this thesis utilizes particular speeches of Members of Canadian Parliament when taking into consideration other primary sources such as official statistics and laws. The first part of the thesis deals with the approach towards firearms since 1867 until Stephen Harper's governance in 2006. This chapter also points out the reactivity and safety reasons why those particular laws were adopted. The second chapter compares selected speeches of Members of Parliament in order to prove the fundamental research question of this thesis, which is: Has the financial argument replaced safety argument presented by Conservative party during the reported period? The bachelor thesis came to conclusion, that the financial argument replaced safety argument presented by Conservative party during the reported period. However the financial argument was not the only one which was used by the members of the Conservative party.